

Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

March 7, 2011

HB 6262: AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Co-Chairs Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee:

My name is George Hindinger and I am a farmer from Hamden, CT and Chairperson of the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board. I am submitting testimony today in support of HB6262.

HB6262 maintains the dairy support program under the Community Investment Act. This bill would remove the sunset provision and continue the state's policy of funding a dairy farm safety net. Connecticut's dairy industry contributes over \$1.1 billion to the states economy and provides fresh, local milk to its consumers both young and old.

As a farmer I am very proud of being a "steward of the land" but let's not forget that Connecticut's dairy farms control over 70,000 acres of farmland - by far the largest segment of any other commodity in Connecticut. CIA funds also help correct a complicated federal milk pricing system which does not account for the high cost of production in Connecticut.

I thank you for your consideration of this bill and your support for Connecticut agriculture.

Sincerely,
George Hindinger, Chairperson
Farmland Preservation Advisory Board